

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 OPR-02 /035 W

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R 171741Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4805

S E C R E T ROME 18461

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: DE MARTINO VISIT

REF: STATE 296834

1. I REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER THE INSTRUCTION REFTEL. WHILE INVITING MAROTTA TO JOIN DE MARTINO'S PARTY IS NOT AN INITIATIVE THAT I WOULD HAVE PROPOSED OR SUPPORTED, I DO NOT THINK IT POLITIC TO ATTEMPT TO TELL DE MARTINO (EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH MANZINI) WHOM HE SHOULD HAVE ACCOMPANY HIM ON AN "UNOFFICIAL" TRIP, ESPECIALLY WHEN MAROTTA WILL NOT BE TRAVELLING AT USG EXPENSE.

2. AS ITALIAN DESK IS AWARE, IT IS COMMON PRACTICE IN ITALY FOR SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURES TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THEIR STAFFS ON A PERMANENT BASIS. IT IS EQUALLY COMMON TO HAVE SUCH OFFICERS ASSIST POLITICAL FIGURES ON THEIR TRIPS ABROAD, WHERE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE FOREIGN CULTURE AND LANGUAGE IS OF GREAT ASSISTANCE. GIVEN THIS PRACTICE AND THE NATURE OF THE TRIP, WE DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD TELL DE MARTINO THAT MAROTTA IS UNWELCOME TO US. SHOULD DE MARTINO WISH HIS PRESENCE (A FACT WE DO NOT YET KNOW), SUCH AN ATTITUDE ON OUR PART WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY PROVOKE A NEGATIVE REACTION FROM DE MARTINO AND BE A MOST INFELICITIOUS NOTE ON WHICH TO START HIS TRIP. SHOULD DE MARTINO NOT ACCEPT MAROTTA'S HELP, WE CAN BE REASONABLY SURE THAT MAROTTA WILL DISAPPEAR FROM THE SCENE WITHOUT ANY HELP FROM US. ACCORDINGLY, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD TAKE ANY POSITION WITH MANZINI OR DE MARTINO ON THIS QUESTION. WHEN I SEE DE MARTINO BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, WHICH I

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WILL DO AS SOON AS WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME DETAILS ON HIS

SCHEDULE, I WILL ASK HIM ABOUT MAROTTA.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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Disposition History: n/a
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